



The 9 Essential Terms to Pack on Your Journey into the World of Second Language Acquisition

ADVENTURES
IN LANGUAGE

9 Essential Terms

1. Second Language Acquisition
2. First Language
3. Second Language
4. Acquisition
5. Learners
6. Input
7. Output
8. Proficiency
9. Bilingual



1. Second Language Acquisition

A scientific field of study that focuses on the *learning* and *teaching* of second and subsequent languages

Second Language Acquisition □ SLA



1. Second Language Acquisition

The process of learning a second language

Second language **learning**





1. Second Language Acquisition

“Second Language Acquisition research can inform practices in language classrooms.”

← **Field of study**

“Second language acquisition takes more effort than first language acquisition.”

← **Process**



1. Second Language Acquisition

“Second Language Acquisition research can inform practices in language classrooms.”

← SLA

“Second language acquisition takes more effort than first language acquisition.”

← L2 acquisition

L = Language
2 = Second

2. First Language (L1)

Any language learned very early in life
(from womb to around age 4)

Also referred to as: Native language,
mother tongue

Fun fact: Many people have multiple L1s!



3. Second Language (L2)

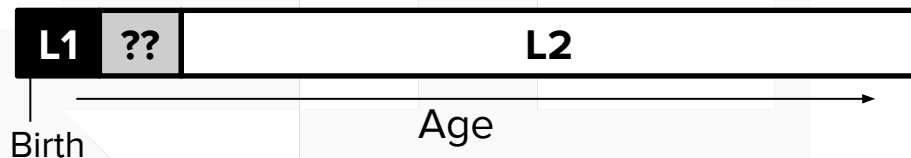
Any additional language(s) learned after your first language(s)

Also referred to as: Non-native, foreign, target, or world languages



3. Second Language (L2)

First vs. Second Languages: Where's the cutoff?



4. Acquisition

The process of developing a skill

Also referred to as: Learning



5. Learners

People who are learning (or acquiring!) a second language

Also referred to as: Users, speakers, writers, signers





6. Input & 7. Output

Input

the target language that a learner is exposed to, through listening, reading, or viewing

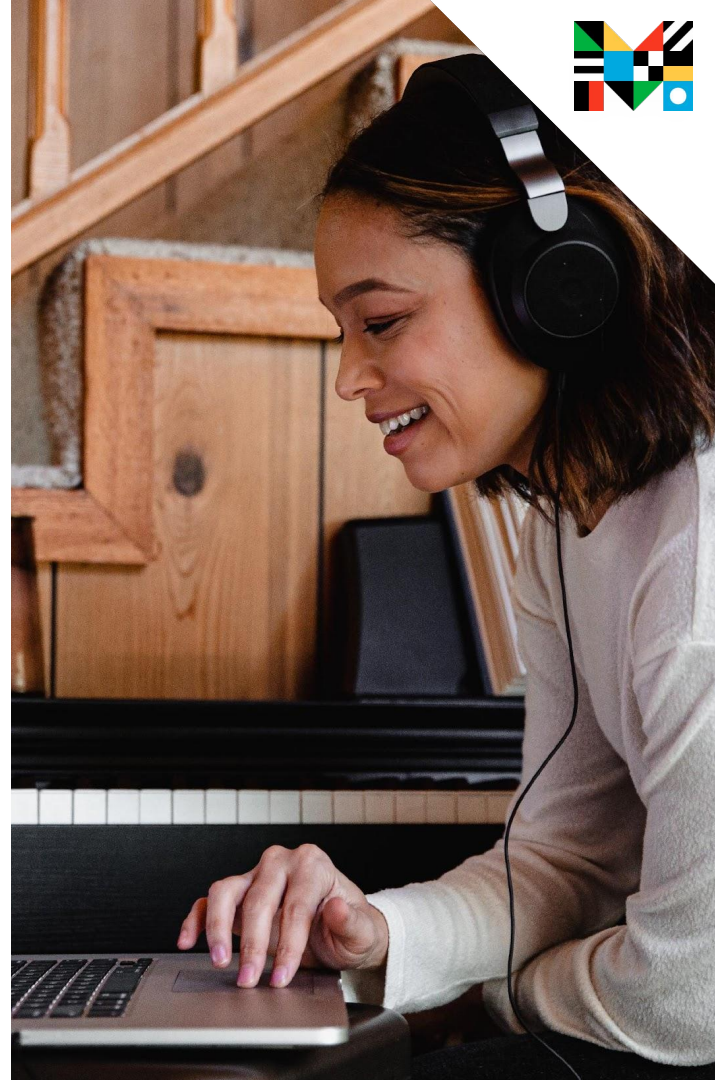


Output

the target language that a learner produces, through speaking, writing, or signing

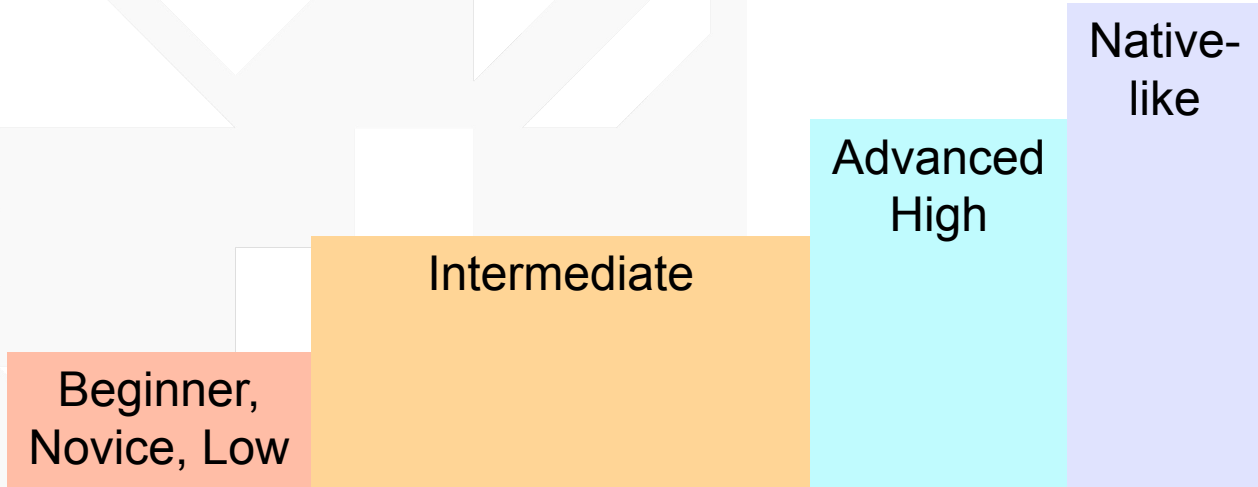
8. Proficiency

An individual's level of ability in a language





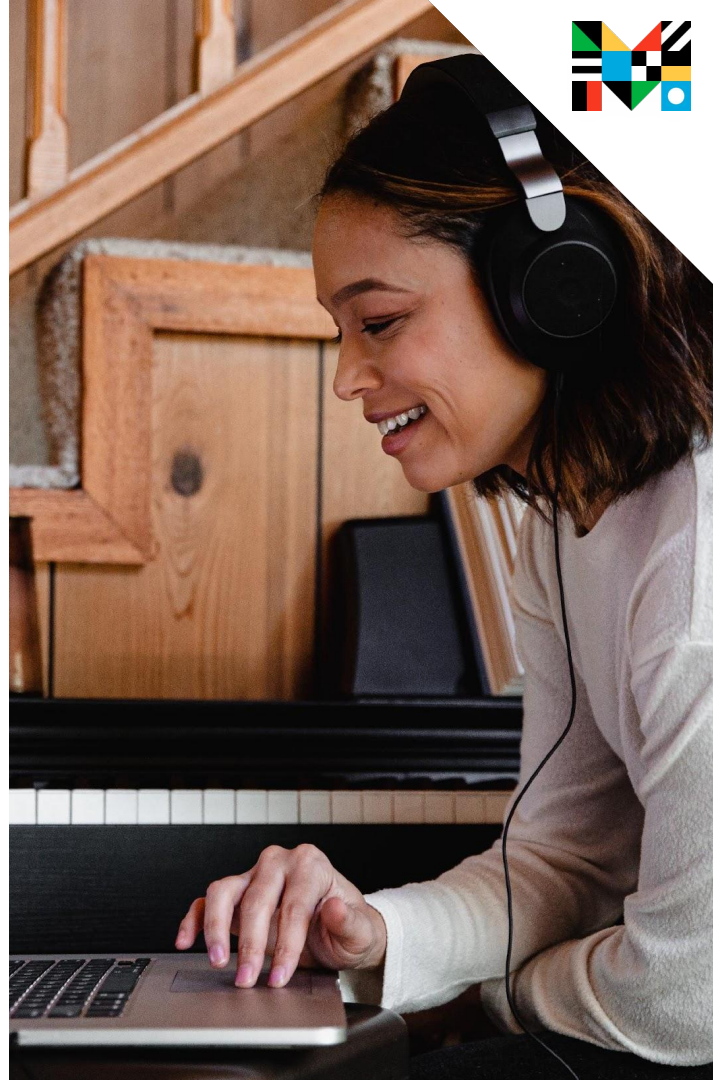
8. Proficiency



8. Proficiency

An individual's level of ability in a language

Possible to have different proficiency levels for different skills (e.g., reading vs. speaking)



9. Bilingual

A person who speaks two or more languages

When can you call yourself a bilingual?





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